



NEWSLETTER

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF THE MILITARY



VETERANS DAY AT THE FAIR

At the request of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs, Gov. Kristi Noem has proclaimed Thursday, Aug. 29, 2019, as Veterans Day at the South Dakota State Fair, calling on all South Dakotans to honor those men and women who fought bravely for our freedoms.

At 10:30 a.m. on August 29, the South Dakota State Fair will host a "Salute to Veterans" program. The program will be held on the Northwest Energy Freedom Stage (Recreation Avenue). Greg Whitlock, Secretary for the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs, will be the keynote speaker.

"Whether in peace or at war, the important role of our veterans cannot be denied. They are men and women from all walks of life that have one thing in common --- a love for this great country," said Secretary Whitlock. "No matter where or when veterans have served, they've always served with distinction and their service to this country is a bridge that was built on courage, dedication and patriotism."

Representatives from the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Service Organizations, as well as county veterans service officers will have informational booths in the Veterans Building on Flag Avenue throughout the week. Veterans are encouraged to stop by the booth and learn more about benefits and programs available to them as well.

Whitlock especially encourages Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans to stop by and visit with SDDVA staff about disability benefits.

To show appreciation for their service, the Fair will give all veterans and active military personnel free gate admission on Aug 29.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Officer Candidate School	2
Troops to Teachers	3
New Purple Heart City	3
French Legion of Honor Medals ..	4
CRST Veterans Memorial	5
EAFB Health Expo	6
SDSU Veterans Golf Outing	7
SD State Cemetery Update	8
Upcoming Events	9



OFFICER CANDIDATE SCHOOL GRADUATES 92 CANDIDATES

Ninety-two U.S. Army National Guard officer candidates from across the country attended their Officer Candidate School graduation ceremony at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center in Rapid City, July 26.

The ceremony symbolizes the completion of eight continuous weeks of training and evaluation for officer candidates to become commissioned as second lieutenants in their respective states or U.S. territories.

The Fort Meade-based Officer Candidate School, hosted by the South Dakota Army National Guard's 1-196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute), is one of the nation's four consolidated OCS programs.

"We watched as each of these candidates struggled, and overcame personal and group challenges to become better decision makers, better leaders, better followers, and better soldiers," said Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Shay, 1-196th Regiment, phase senior NCO. "We do everything we can to prepare these young officers to take on challenges, and become successful, and we hope they embrace these challenges."

Soldiers selected for the OCS program have the option of attending an accelerated eight-week course, or the traditional 16-18 months of attending drill weekends and two summer annual training events.

"To me it's laying the foundation for what the Army is going to look like, and who is going to lead the next generation of men and women into battle," said Maj. Benjamin Barille, OCS Alpha Company commander.

The OCS program is meant to be challenging, both mentally and physically for participants. There are three-phases that include academics in leadership, military history, and a field portion that includes unit tactics and unit leadership.



Among the 92 graduates included eight from the South Dakota Army National Guard.

"It has been an eye-opening experience," said Jarod Morken, SDARNG graduate. "I look back on the camaraderie we built within our class during the last 16-months. Drilling with such a small group, and going through strenuous things that happened at OCS, forced us to become close, very fast, but I think it's something we will be able to take with us forever."

The graduating candidates will now return to their home states to receive their commission and will soon follow on to the Army's Basic Officer Leadership Course, which will be branch-specific for each officer, such as infantry, artillery, engineering, logistics and many more.

A commissioning ceremony will be held for the SDARNG officer candidates Friday, Aug. 16, at 5 p.m. at Joint Force Headquarters on Camp Rapid.

TROOPS TO TEACHERS

Troops to Teachers is a program designed to assist military members, veterans and school districts. The program supports military members and veterans who desire to pursue careers as teachers in public education. The program also assists all school districts in meeting their teacher needs, with priority to rural and high needs schools, and in subjects typically difficult to fill.

Larry Broomfield has been recently hired to represent the Troops to Teachers program in the state of South Dakota.

Larry has a Bachelors degree in Secondary Ed in Business Education and Mathematics from Black Hills State University in Spearfish. He also has a Bachelors in Applied Management from National American University where he achieved Summa Cum Laude status. Larry also has a Masters in Business Administration from NAU.

During Larry's time in the U.S. Air Force Larry earned an Associates Degree in Meteorology/Weather Technology from the Community College of the Air Force. He also holds certificates in QM Processes/QM

Facilitators, Organizational Strategic Planning from the American Society for Quality Inc and USAF.

Larry served in the U. S. Air Force for 26 years and during that time was assigned to the U.S. Army for a total of six years at two locations, the 10th Special Forces Group (Mountain) at Fort Devens MA and then USAREUR Headquarters at Heidelberg, GE), and also served with the Navy doing two TDY deployments .

Larry worked as a K-12 teacher for 12 years in New Underwood, teaching Business Ed and Computer Technology. Larry also worked in higher education at National American University as an adjunct professor and campus director for several years.

Larry may be contacted at: lbroomfield.troopstt@icloud.com or 605-393-5350



NEWEST PURPLE HEART CITY

Mitchell becomes the newest community to become a "Purple Heart City."

Ken Teunissen, commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the Dakota's presented Mitchell Mayor Bob Everson with signs to display.



FRANCE TO HONOR THREE SD WORLD WAR II VETERANS

Three World War II Veterans from South Dakota will be awarded France's highest distinction, the French Legion of Honor medal, for their participation in the liberation of France during WWII. Veterans Jimmy J. Traupel of Mitchell, Orville B. Lerew of Faulkton, and Kenneth R. Higashi of Spearfish will be presented the medals by Consul General of France to the Midwest region, Guillaume Lacroix.

The French Legion of Honor is the highest distinction that France can bestow upon those who have achieved remarkable deeds for France. Founded by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802, the National Order of the Legion of Honor recognizes eminent service to the French Republic. Recipients of this honor are named by decree signed by the President of the Republic.

The ceremonies will be held at the following locations:

August 21—Traupel Ceremony—Veterans Park (1st and Main Street) - Mitchell—10:30 am (CT)

Alternate address if weather issues—Corn Palace (601 N. Main)

August 22—Lerew Ceremony—Methodist Church (1011 St. John Street)—Faulkton—11:00 am (CT)

August 23—Higashi Ceremony—Meier Hall—Black Hills State University Campus (Yellow Jacket Lane)—Spearfish—10:00 am (MT)



S/Sgt. TRAUPEL was a member of the 379th Bombardment Group, 8th Air Force. He flew 34 combat missions during WWII as a waist gunner in a B-17. He was awarded the Purple Heart Medal, the Air Medal with three (3) Oak Leaf Clusters, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the European-African-Middle Eastern Medal with two (2) Battle Stars, the Good Conduct Medal and one (1) Overseas Service Bar.



S/Sgt. LEREW was a member of the United States Army, Troop "D" 87th Cavalry, 7th Armored Division where he was a platoon leader. He participated in the Northern France, the Rhineland, the Ardennes and Central Europe campaigns. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart with one (1) Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, the American Campaign Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Medal with four (4) Bronze Service Stars, two (2) Overseas Service Bars, the Honorable Service Lapel Button WWII, the WWII Victory Medal, and the Expert Badge with Carabine Bar.



Sgt. HIGASHI was a member of the C "Charlie" Company, 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, a famous Japanese Americans special fighting force. During his service he was an infantry assault squad leader. He participated in the North Apennines, the Po Valley, the Rhineland (France: Vosges) and Southern France campaigns. For his service, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the American Campaign Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Medal with three (3) Bronze Battle Stars, the WWII Victory Medal, the Distinguished Unit Badge with one (1) Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, the Combat Infantryman Badge, The honorable Service lapel Button-WWII, the Sharpshooter Qualification Badge, two (2) Overseas Service Bars. He is also a recipient of the United States Congressional Gold Medal.

CHEYENNE RIVER SIOUX TRIBE DEDICATES VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK

Last Friday the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe dedicated their Veterans Memorial Park in Eagle Butte.

Keynote speakers for the dedication were: Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Chairman Harold Frazier and South Dakota Lt. Governor Larry Rhoden. Congressional messages were also shared with participants.

A special honoring ceremony was conducted by the Wounded Knee Memorial Riders.

SDDVA Field Service Officer Kevin Swanson attended on behalf of the Department.

The Cheyenne River Veterans Memorial Park was a vision of the CRST Game, Fish, and Parks Department and the Cheyenne River Veterans Association.





1ST ANNUAL ELLSWORTH AIR FORCE BASE COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLNESS EXPO



Activities Include:

- AED Training
- Aerobics, Walking, Yoga
- Ambulance Tours
- Balance Screening
- Blood Pressure Screenings
- Body Movement and Recovery Exercises
- Children's Activities
- Hands Only CPR Training
- Inflatable Heart and Lung Display
- Nutrition Counseling
- Pet CPR demonstration
- Pre-Diabetes Screening
- "REGGIE" The life size Operation Game
- Veteran's Outreach Information
- *Wellness Screening Lab offered for \$45.00
(Must be fasting 12 hours prior to lab draw)

WHEN: SEP 21, 2019 FROM 9AM-NOON

WHERE: RUSHMORE MALL

WHO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE BLACK HILLS COMMUNITY



American
Red Cross



"No Federal Endorsement Intended"

2nd Annual SDSU Veterans Affairs Golf Tournament

DATE: Saturday, September 14th, 2019

TIME: 9:00am Shotgun Start

8:00am Check-in/Registration

WHERE: Edgebrook Golf Course

Brookings, SD

REGISTER: Contact the SDSU Veterans Affairs Office:
(605) 688-5319 / SDSU.veterans@sdstate.edu

Or go online and register:
<https://www.sdstate.edu/veterans-affairs-office/programs>



Want to support local disabled Veterans by sponsoring this event and advertise your business?

\$250 per hole

Contact the SDSU Veterans Affairs Office:
(605) 688-5319
SDSU.veterans@sdstate.edu

4 person scramble
(all skill levels welcome)

\$75 /golfer

(includes registration, meal, golf cart, mulligans, and gift)

1st place - \$400
2nd place - \$200

pin prizes

putting contest &
other lawn games

beverage cart

silent auction

food provided by
Craft Italian-
American Fusion
\$8/person

(included in golfer's registration fee)

bring cash

(no ATM)

& small cooler
(optional)

The SDSU Veterans Affairs Office is proud to host an event benefiting an organization whose mission began by utilizing their passion for the outdoors to serve our nation's heroes. **Warriors Never Give Up**, local 501(c)3 charity, intention and outdoor adventures is and always has been to provide a place of relaxation, hope, family, and a break from life's daily struggles.



Groundbreaking Ceremony for
South Dakota State Veterans Cemetery
Monday, September 9, at 9:00 am (CT)



Directions —

If traveling on I-229 North: Take I-229 North until it ends and turns into Jim Zweep Highway. Approximately a quarter mile north turn right onto Slip Up Creek Road. Follow Slip Up Creek Road until you see the entrance to the cemetery land.

If you're traveling on I-90: Whether traveling East or West on I-90 take the Cliff Avenue Exit (Exit 399) and head North. Travel North approximately three miles to 258th Street. Turn Right heading East on 258th St. Approximately two miles East turn right on to 477th Ave heading South. Travel South approximately one-and-a-half miles and the cemetery property will be on your right.

Good tip for the event — please remind anyone attending to pack their lawn chairs for the groundbreaking. A limited amount of chairs will be available for the speakers and for those with mobility issues.



Aug 14—Turner County Fair Vietnam Veterans Recognition—3:00—5:00 pm (CT)
 Aug 14—SFVAHCS Show and Shine—SFVAHCS Campus—5:30—8:30 pm (CT)
 Aug 15—Tribute to Vietnam Veterans—Maverick Air Center—Sioux Falls—7:00 pm (CT)
 Aug 17—SFVAHCS Whole Health Class—Sioux Falls Vet Center (3200 W. 49th Street)—9:00 am—11:00 am (CT)
 Aug 17-18—Sioux Falls Air Show
 Aug 21—Traupel French Medal of Honor Ceremony—Veterans Park (1st and Main Street) - Mitchell—10:30 am (CT)
 Alternate address if weather issues—Corn Palace (601 N. Main)
 Aug 22—Lerew French Medal of Honor Ceremony—Methodist Church (1011 St. John Street)—Faulkton—
 11:00 am (CT)
 Aug 23—Higashi Ceremony—Meier Hall—Black Hills State University Campus (Yellow Jacket Lane)—Spearfish—
 10:00 am (MT)
 Aug 24—Wine and Gala Auction (Midwest Honor Flight Benefit)—Calico Skies Winery
 Aug 24-25—Fall River Hot Air Balloon Festival
 Aug 24—Vietnam Veterans State Council Meeting—American Legion Post 8—Pierre—11:00 am (CT)
 Aug 26—Sioux Falls Barrel House (Midwest Honor Flight Benefit—10% all day to MWHF)—4701 E 54th Street
 Aug 29—Veterans Day at the Fair
 Aug 26-29—SDDVA Benefit School
 Aug 31—15th Annual 727th Transportation/DAV Poker Run—Swiftel Center—Brookings
 Sep 9—SD State Veterans Cemetery Groundbreaking—9:00 am (CT)
 Sep 12—SD Veterans Commission Conf. Call Meeting—4:00 pm (CT)
 Sep 14—SDSU 2nd Annual Veterans Affairs Golf Tournament—Edgebrook Golf Course—Brookings—8:00 am (CT)
 Sep 21—SFVAHCS Whole Health Class—Sioux Falls Vet Center (3200 W. 49th Street)—9:00 am—11:00 am (CT)
 Sep 21—Davison County Veterans Wellness and Benefit Fair—Mitchell Corn Palace—8:00 am—4:30 pm (CT)
 Sep 21—EAFB Health and Wellness Expo—Rushmore Mall—Rapid City—9:00 am—Noon (MT)
 Sep 21-22—SD American Legion Golf Tournament—Hartford Golf Course
 Sep 24—Midwest Honor Flight Mission 5 Welcome Home Ceremony—Sioux Falls Convention Center Arena—8:45
 pm (CT)—doors open at 7:15
 Nov 2—Second Annual Hangar Dance (Midwest Honor Flight Benefit)—Mid America Museum of Aviation—
 Sioux City, IA—7:00 pm (CT)



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